

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Come Celebrate Springtime Wildflowers in California State Parks!

No green thumb? No worries! Nature has done the work for you. Spring has sprung in California State Parks, and this year's wildflower season is well underway. The annual blooming of spring wildflowers in California State Parks is always a breathtaking sight, and with over 6,000 native plant species statewide you're never far from a stunning view.

Be sure to call the parks in advance for up-to-date information. Here are just a few of the spots in California State Parks that are sure to please:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Located East of San Diego via Highways 78 and 79 in Imperial, San Diego, and Riverside Counties. Call (760) 767-4684 or on-line at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638. The Anza Borrego Foundation is holding upcoming wildflower events. Go here for the Foundation's website <http://theabf.org/>. Wildflowers are currently being reported in some areas of the park, which can be seen on a map on the park's webpage.

Andrew Molera State Park

Located 21 miles south of Carmel on Highway 1 in Monterey County, can feature a variety of springtime flowers. The park phone number is (831) 667-2315.

Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

Located 15 miles west of Lancaster in Los Angeles County, the reserve generally features its greatest blooming period in April, depending on rain. For more information, call the poppy reserve hotline at (661) 724-1180 or the [Theodore Payne Foundation](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=627) Wildflower Hotline at (818) 768-3533. Find out more here http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=627.

Azalea State Reserve

Located five miles north of Arcata in Humboldt County, this reserve preserves outstanding examples of azaleas that generally bloom in April and May. The reserve has a parking lot and trails. For more information call the sector office at (707) 488-2041 or visit online at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=420.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Located in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. For more information, call (831) 338-8860 or (831) 427-2288 or go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=540.

Garrapata State Park

Located 6.7 miles south of Rio Road in Carmel in Monterey County, features the Soberanes canyon/ridge trail that winds through meadows, a riparian zone, a lovely redwood grove and an exposed coastal ridge. On certain sections of this trail visitors may feel that they're swimming through flowers, which can include Shooting Stars, Johnny Jump Ups, Blue Dicks, Golden Buttercup, Elegant Clarkia, Goldfields, Douglas Iris, Checkerbloom, Star Zygadine, Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry, Trillium, Tidy Tips, Footsteps of Spring and a fantastic variety of Bush Lupine. Visitors can also encounter the more common Monkey Flower, Seaside Painted Cups, Coyote Brush, Lizard Tail Yarrow, Mock Heather and Poppies. For more information, the park phone number is (831) 624-4909.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park

Located 20 miles north of Garberville, Humboldt Redwoods State Park generally provides excellent displays of wallflowers along the Avenue of the Giants. Visitors will find Humboldt Lilies and orchids in late March to April and Dogwood in April into early May, depending on the warmth of the spring. For more information call the park visitor center at (707) 946-2263.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Located four miles north east of Arnold on Highway 4 in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, Calaveras Big Trees State Park is known for its wildflowers in June, especially along the Lava Bluffs Trail. The park phone number is (209) 795-2334.

Carmel River State Beach

This park can be reached from Highway 1 in Carmel. Wildflowers can be found along the bluff trail. The park phone number is (831) 624-4909.

Castle Crags State Park

Castle Crags State Park has a variety of wildflowers in the spring. The park phone number is (530) 235-2684.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park has magnificent displays of rhododendrons that can be seen from the highway as well as numerous roadside turnouts in April and May, depending on the warmth of the spring. For more information call the Redwood National and State Park information center at (707) 464-6101, extension 5064.

Henry W. Coe State Park

Located in the mountains south and east of San Jose in Santa Clara and Stanislaus Counties, it's a wonderful place to see spring wildflowers. Early in the year visitors may see white milkmaids, blue hounds tongue, or yellow buttercups. As spring progresses, the flowers become more numerous with goldfields, owls clover, butter and eggs, columbine, delphinium, and may more. Visitors might even get lucky and see the charming tiny purple mouse ears. For more info go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=561 . The park phone number is (408) 779-2728.

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

Located 11 miles northeast of Burney on Highway 89 in Shasta County, it features a variety of wildflowers in the spring. The park phone number is (530) 335-2777.

Millerton Lake State Recreation Area

Located 20 miles northeast of Fresno in Fresno and Madera Counties, features spring flowers on the Blue Oak Trail, an easy walk. Visitors taking a more strenuous hike on the Buzzards Roost Trail can also find spring flowers. The park phone number is (559) 822-2332.

Montaña de Oro State Park

Located seven miles south of Los Osos on Pecho Valley Road in San Luis Obispo County, can feature hills covered with poppies, lupines, sticky monkey flowers, wild radish and mustard. Best time to visit is April and May. For more information call (805) 528-0513.

Mount Tamalpais State Park

Located North of San Francisco's Golden Gate in Marin County, features spectacular and easily-accessed wildflowers each spring. Visitors can get to the park from Highway 101 take Highway 1 to the Stinson Beach exit and follow signs up the mountain. The park phone number is (415) 388-2070.

Olompali State Historic Park

Located three miles north of Novato on U.S. 101 in Marin County, also features spectacular and easily-accessed wildflowers each spring. The park entrance is accessible only to southbound traffic from Highway 101. The park phone number is (415) 892-3383.

Pacheco State Park

This park is a good place to visit in April for wildflowers. The park is on Highway 152, located 20 miles east of Gilroy in Merced County. Call the park directly at 209-826-6283.

Point Lobos State Park

Located three miles south of Carmel on Highway 1, it features a fairly easy hike with nice coastal bluff flowers. The park phone number is (831) 624-4909.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Careful observers in the park will find beautiful but illusive orchids among the ancient redwood groves as well as more prominent displays of rhododendrons along the parkway in late March through May. For more information call the park visitor center at (707) 464-6101 ext. 5300.

Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

Located in Jamestown, Tuolumne County. On two upcoming Saturdays -- April 9 & 16 -- Railtown 1897 State Historic Park (SHP) will provide guests with a unique opportunity to experience spring wildflowers from onboard a train! The special afternoon wildflower trains will depart from the Railtown Depot promptly at 4:30 p.m. Prior to boarding the train, passengers will have the opportunity to learn about the wildflowers of California's Sierra Nevada foothills. For more info call the park at (209) 984-3953.

Salinas River State Beach

Located North of Monterey, Salinas River State Beach has a nice section of wildflowers along the boardwalk at Molera Road. The park phone number is (831) 384-7695.

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area

Located 12 miles west of Los Banos on Highway 152 in Merced County, it features spring wildflowers throughout the park. The park phone number is (209) 826-1196.

Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area

Located six miles east of Corning and I-5 on South Avenue in Tehama County, it has a variety of spring wildflowers. The park phone number is (530) 839-2112.

Zmudowski State Beach

Located one mile north of Moss Landing in Monterey County, features wildflowers in late spring, although many of them on non-natives. The park phone number is (831) 384-7695.

For additional info visit California State Parks on-line at www.parks.ca.gov.

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